

# The Rubbish RESOURCE



A Publication of the N.H. Department of Environmental Services Waste Management Division

Winter 2002

## AMERICA RECYCLES DAY 2001 A SUCCESS!



November 15, 2001 marked the 5<sup>th</sup> annual America Recycles Day in New Hampshire (ARD-NH). This year's theme was "NH Recycles ... Community by Community" and thanks to the participation of many communities throughout New Hampshire and the generosity of many sponsors, this year's celebration was extremely successful.

The highlight of America Recycles Day in New Hampshire was the overwhelming participation by so many communities. This year there were nearly 30 events with more than a dozen facility tours, cable TV spots, newspaper articles and advertisements, and displays around the state. Events such as Manchester's *Trashcan Lid Productions*, Littleton's cable TV videos about solid waste recycling programs, and Peterborough's Open House at the transfer station really got the public thinking about recycling and the need to buy products made from recycled materials. America Recycles Day has been a great time to kick off new recycling programs as well as promote existing ones.

"The Best Municipal Recycling Program in NH" contest showed just how different yet still effective communities can be in managing their programs. This contest opened a window into aspects of programs that might not otherwise have been seen, such as the town's outreach program, or a Recycling Committee that supports the program. We received 24 applications for this award. The "Best Municipal Recycling Program in NH" award went to the Town of Plymouth (See article on next page) and a runner up award was presented to the City of Keene.

The School Calendar Contest was a big hit with New Hampshire's students. Students submitted over 100 drawings from schools all over the state. Twelve drawings were selected and will be used to create a poster type calendar. The calendar will be distributed to schools and communities around the first of next year. The contest, sponsored by Casella Waste Systems, was used in classrooms to encourage more students and faculty to reduce their waste. At an award presentation at the Nashua Marriott Hotel, student artists received a backpack made from recycled tires and a \$100.00 U. S. savings bond. Those students are: Ben Leland of Rochester (shown), Julie Eyman of Franconia, Josephine Juang of Candia, Chris Richards of Somersworth, Ali Lurie of Plymouth, Kelly Johnson of Lisbon, Kaci Chase of Monroe, Haylee Szczepkowski of Sanbornton, Dan Karr of Sanbornton, Brittany Shaw of Sanbornton, Lindsay Dubisz of Bedford and Emily Carter of Swanzey.



(Ben Leland, Rochester)

For the statewide contest, the pledge card was abandoned and replaced by a "Letter of Commitment." The winner, Jeanne Young of Manchester, was chosen in a random drawing and was awarded with a Walden kayak, one-year supply of Stonyfield Yogurt, a gas grill, and an L.L. Bean sleeping bag. The drawing was held in Manchester during a free concert, sponsored by the City of Manchester. *Trashcan Lid Productions* performed to a very enthusiastic crowd, using items that would have otherwise found their way into the trash. Attendees went home with products, such as mugs, reusable bags, Frisbees, and toothbrushes, made from recycled materials.

The Department would like to thank all of those who made this year's celebration happen. If anyone is interested in volunteering for next year's America Recycles Day Committee, please contact Marc Morgan at 271-3712.

## ATTENTION OPERATORS

After January 15, 2002, the Department of Environmental Services (DES) calendar of solid waste facility operator workshops for 2002 will be mailed out to all operators and posted on the DES website at: [www.des.state.nh.us/pcas](http://www.des.state.nh.us/pcas). Many thanks to all who have offered suggestions. As a condition of certification, each certified operator is required to attend one workshop annually. The workshops are presented free of charge.

PRESENTING...

PLYMOUTH RECYCLING CENTER

Why Plymouth?

During the America Recycles Day award program held in Nashua on November 15, the Town of Plymouth received the award for “Best Municipal Recycling Program in New Hampshire.” Plymouth earned the award for their commitment to excellence in recycling. The Plymouth transfer station/recycling center provides residents and businesses with the opportunity to recycle many materials. In addition to recycling, the town encourages reuse by operating a swap shop for books, magazines, clothes, electronic goods, Styrofoam packing peanuts, white goods, stock metal and pipe, and construction debris. The town also sets a good example by recycling at the town offices and at the schools.

How does the program operate?

Because the town administrator was formally a finance director, the town and, in particular, the recycling facility, function as close to a business as possible. Thus, every activity undertaken by the facility is evaluated for overhead cost and possible revenue. This has helped the staff to determine which method of processing to use, including how they separate, bale or ship different commodities. The town realizes that there is a tremendous savings in tipping fees and trucking costs when it diverts as much trash as possible to recycling.

In addition to operating as a business, the town feels strongly that future survival in the solid waste management business will come with towns cooperating and working together. As a member of the Pemi-Baker Solid Waste District, Plymouth processes recyclables from some of the towns and businesses both in and outside the district. The towns and businesses that use the Plymouth Recycling Center benefit by saving disposal tipping fees and the cost of purchasing and maintaining expensive recycling equipment. These savings can run from \$50 to \$80 a ton, depending on the town’s disposal fee. The Town of Plymouth gains from accepting recyclables from out of town in several ways, including an increase in efficiency because of the increase in the quantity of the same material to be processed. Instead of processing one or two bales of one material such as cardboard, the operator can process eight or more bales of the same material before switching to another type of material. Three years ago, Plymouth finished the year with 473 bales of recyclables, and this past year they finished with 1,700 bales. Another gain for the town is that a truck load of bales is generated faster and is available to ship to market when short term price increases occur.

Great strides have been made by the recycling program in community service. The staff at the recycling center have tried to make the facility as user-friendly as possible and strive to get as many of the town’s citizens involved with and aware of their daily operations. This effort has targeted all age groups, from school kids to senior citizens, and leads to a better understanding of the town’s recycling program.

Finally, Plymouth has an active volunteers and community service program, put together with the efforts of the police chief and his department. The use of volunteers and community service workers reduces the cost of processing recyclables.

For information about Plymouth’s recycling program, contact: Paul Freitas, Recycling Manager (603) 536-2378

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